

## **A Telephone Assistance Program called Lifeline/Link-up can Provide Discounted Basic Telephone Services to Qualifying Residents**

Lifeline/Link-up is a federal program administered by Eligible Telecommunications Carriers (ETCs) that provide local service. This program helps qualifying consumers afford phone service and get connected to the public switched telephone network with reduced rates.

- Lifeline assistance provides up to \$10.00 off the monthly cost of telephone service for a single telephone line in their principal residence.
- Link-up provides discounts on service charges associated with initiation of service of up to 50% with a maximum benefit of \$30.

Households enrolled in at least one of the following programs may be eligible.

- Medicaid
- Food Stamps
- Supplemental Social Security Income
- Federal Public Housing Assistance
- Low Income Heat and Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)
- National School Free Lunch Program

And/or

- Households at or below 135% of the federal poverty guidelines

The local exchange carriers that provide Lifeline/Link-Up services are reimbursed by the federal government through a dedicated portion of universal service funds specifically earmarked for income-eligible consumers. The IURC determines which companies are eligible to provide this service by ensuring that the companies' services meet established federal criteria.

If you think you may qualify for Lifeline/Link-up, contact an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier that serves your area.

Lifeline/Link-Up Application

[http://www.in.gov/oucc/telecomm/IURC\\_APP.TXT](http://www.in.gov/oucc/telecomm/IURC_APP.TXT)

List of Eligible Telecommunications Carriers in Indiana

<http://www.in.gov/oucc/2816.htm>